AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

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[0001] This application is based upon French Patent Application No. 01 00558, filed on January 12, 2001, ~~the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference thereto in its entirety, and~~ the priority of which is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

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[0014] The mounting base includes two zones that extend in a common longitudinal direction, ~~the extension of one another,~~ a front zone on which the body is mounted, and a rear zone that extends rearward of the jaw, in which the bore and the support element are located. The rear zone of the element is lower in relation to the front zone.

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[0018] The jaw 2 and the body 3 of this retaining element have a construction known primarily from the published patent application FR 2 640 516 and U.S. Patent No. 5,044,658, the disclosure of the latter being ~~which is~~ hereby incorporated by reference thereto in its entirety. According to this mode of construction, the two wings 4 and 5 of the jaw are separate and are connected to the body 3 by vertical journal axles. They are elastically returned to the position for retaining the boot by a spring housed in the body. The wings further have a sole clamp for vertically retaining the boot.

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[0023] According to the embodiment shown, the support element 12 is covered with a sliding pad 13. It is also movable by rocking laterally about a median longitudinal and horizontal axle carried by its support 14. Various constructions of such a support element are suitable, and among them that which is described in the patent document EP 653 231 and U.S. Patent No. 5,890,731, the disclosure of the latter being ~~which is~~ hereby incorporated by reference thereto in its entirety, but particularly with respect to the construction of the support element. Other modes of construction are also suitable.

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[0024] According to the embodiment shown, the rear zone 11 of the mounting base 8 includes two parallel arms ~~lugs~~ 16 and 17, each bored with a housing 18, 19 for a screw for assembly to the ski.

[0026] An assembly screw is also provided for the front zone. A known assembly mode, especially that described in the aforementioned FR 2 651 145 and U.S. Patent No. 5,211,419,

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the latter being hereby incorporated by reference thereto, ~~cited here by way of reference,~~ can be used.

[0027] As can be seen in FIG. 1, the raising of the zone 10 results from the lowered position ~~downward bending~~ of two arms 16 and 17 of the zone ~~10~~ 11. Good results can be obtained with the rear zone 11 of the mounting base being 6 millimeters, or approximately 6 millimeters, below the level of the front zone. This particular value is only provided for guidance. A height between 4 and 10 millimeters is also suitable.

[0034] According to FIG. 4, the front retaining element 21 has a jaw 22 forming an integral

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assembly together with the body 23, as is described, for example, in patent document FR 2 420 359 and U.S. Patent No. 4,337,965, the disclosure of the latter being ~~which is~~ hereby incorporated by reference thereto in its entirety. The body 23 is pivotally mounted with respect to a pivot 25 mounted on a mounting base 26 provided to be affixedly connected to the ski. The body and the jaw are returned to the centered position by a spring housed in the body.

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[0035] As in the preceding case, the mounting base 26 includes two zones, a front zone 27 that carries the pivot 25 and a rear zone 28 that is lower than the zone ~~26~~ 27.

[0040] According to the mode of construction shown in FIGS. 6 and 7, the retaining element 41 is constructed with a jaw 43 formed of two wings 44 and 45 which are laterally movable with respect to a body 47, as is described in the patent application WO 85/03451 and U.S. Patent No. 4,660,849, the disclosure of the latter being ~~which is~~ hereby incorporated by reference thereto in its entirety.

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[0041] According to this mode of construction, the wings 44 and 45 are connected to arms 48, 49 about pivots 50, 51. The arms 48 and 49 ~~50 and 51~~ themselves are connected to the body about pivots 52 and 53 located at the front of the body. The assembly is returned to the centered position by a return spring housed in the body.

[0045] The retaining element 41 has a support element 63 movable with the jaw 43. According to the embodiment shown, the support element 63 ~~64~~ is metallic; it is formed of a shaped metal sheet that rests freely on the rear zone 57 of the mounting base. At the front, the support element has an upward bend ~~fold~~ 64 that corresponds to the difference in level between the two zones of the mounting base, and it is affixedly fixed to the jaw, at the junction between the arms and the wings.

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